

THE
Library Journal

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

CHIEFLY DEVOTED TO

Library Economy and Bibliography

VOL. 11. No. 7.

JULY, 1886.

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NEW YORK : PUBLICATION OFFICE, 31 and 32 Park Row.

LONDON : TRÜBNER & CO., 57 and 59 Ludgate Hill.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, \$5.00.

MONTHLY NUMBERS, 50 cts

Price to Europe, or countries in the Union, 90s. per annum : single numbers, 2s.

Entered at the Post-Office at New York, N. Y., as second-class matter.

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THE AMERICAN CATALOGUE,

31 Park Row (P. O. Box 943), New York.

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

VOL. II.

JULY, 1886.

No. 7.

C. A. CUTTER, *Editor.*

Communications for the JOURNAL, exchanges, and editor's copies, should be addressed C. A. CUTTER, Boston Athenæum, Boston, Mass.

The Editor is not responsible for the views expressed in contributed articles or communications, nor for the style of spelling, capitalization, etc., in articles whose authors request adherence to their own style.

"I THINK there be three Richmonds in the field!" The irrepressible activity of the Secretary of our association, not content with running a library, and a library school, and a library bureau, drives him to start a library periodical, the third in the English language. It proposes to confine itself to the practical part of the profession, eschewing the historical, the biographical, and the bibliographical. The editor promises that subscribers shall get their money's worth, and no doubt he will keep this promise. The first number certainly is well worth twenty-five cents, and good material is said to be on hand for the next. Indeed no one who has attended our conventions will fear that there will be any lack of matter. If it prove that two library periodicals can be supported by the American library constituency, there will be good reason to welcome the competition of the new-comer.

American Library Association.

THE MILWAUKEE MEETING.

ANOTHER successful library convention has been held, the attendance and interest taken in its sessions exceeding even those of the previous conventions. The journey from the East was rendered wearisome by the excessive heat, and at Chicago, on Monday, both the pleasure and the profit of the exercises were greatly diminished by the same cause; all looked forward with dread to fatiguing sessions in an overheated hall; but at Milwaukee a fortunate change of wind and lowering of the thermometer restored comfort and inspired vigor. On the first day the President reviewed the field of library work, and the usual reports were presented. The evening exercises were postponed one day to give the tired librarians a chance to recruit. On Wednesday morning a most lively discussion on close

classification showed that the space which the JOURNAL has lately given to that topic was not disproportioned to the general interest taken in the matter. No conclusion was reached; none ever will be reached. The leading writers and speakers on both sides are "of the same opinion still;" but perhaps each was led to see that the opposite opinion was not utterly unreasonable. However that may be, it is certain that decided differences of opinion, strongly and wittily worded, gave a life to the session that the profoundest wisdom expressed with the most judicious moderation could not have imparted. In the afternoon, a carriage excursion took the party through the beautiful avenues and past the handsome residences of North Milwaukee. In the evening, various library appliances were heard of with close attention, tho the passionate interest of a conflict of opinion was wanting.

The third day was not a whit inferior in interest to the first two, and, owing to the insertion of papers crowded out of previous sessions, was of more varied character. Two admirable presentations of the claims of scholarly librarianship attracted, perhaps, the most attention before an audience which is accustomed to listen chiefly to the details of management. Nevertheless, architecture, heating and ventilation, and even the abstrusities of notation were not received coldly, because of the good-natured hits at attempts to convert librarianship into one of the mechanical arts.

The last day was crowded with business; indeed, the experience of all previous conventions was repeated; there were too many papers, too many projects, and too little time for discussion; and yet the program had seemed short.

With most decided and outspoken differences of opinion, the utmost good-nature prevailed, and if possibly any hard feelings were brought into the convention they must have disappeared before its close. In theoretical matters no result was reached; in practical matters no other convention, since coöperation in Poole's index was resolved on, has taken so important a step as this has in the establishment of the A. L. A. publishing section. One thing is certain, the American Library Association has not yet reached the decline of life.

CLOSE CLASSIFICATION.

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MESSRS. PERKINS, SCHWARTZ, AND DEWEY.

BY C. A. CUTTER.

THE first charge in the late joint review of Mr. Dewey's Decimal system is not confined to that system, but applies to all that are worked out into detail; and there is no reason why Ucalegon's neighbor should not take measures to secure himself. It will be most convenient to take up the review paragraph by paragraph, but to include some reasons in favor of minute classing which are not in reply to the arguments of the review and perhaps would be accepted by its authors.

The writers seek to minimize the merit of Mr. Dewey's (and of course of all similar systems) by declaring that the convenience afforded in its close classification -- if there is any convenience -- is obtained only in libraries where readers are permitted to go to the shelves. This of itself, by the way, would be considerable, for it applies to most of the mercantile, nearly all the proprietary libraries, and all the college libraries (in which the professors always and often the students are allowed free range). A scheme is good that will accommodate so many readers, even if the general public of our town and city libraries would get nothing from it. But this is not all. In the first place, the exclusion from the shelves, where it appears in the rules, is seldom absolute. So far as my observation goes, there are no town or city libraries in which some favored persons are not allowed to see the books themselves *in situ*, and these are always not desultory readers, but scholars, the very persons who will be most benefited by close classification -- that is, by bringing together the books on small topics. And secondly, where the exclusion of the public from behind the bars is rigid there is all the more reason for a method which will enable the librarian to supply with the least delay the information that in more fortunate libraries the inquirer can get for himself. My own library is used in both ways. Some go directly to the alcoves; some come to me to know what is to be had on different subjects; and if I am an advocate of minute classification, it is because in an experience of many years I have learned to appreciate the aid it gives me in those parts of the library which are well arranged, and because I have been annoyed by the checks and delays which want of it has caused me in parts as yet ill ordered. Of course the catalog is an aid in the same direction; I certainly should be very

sorry not to have our printed volume and our cards; but it is as true for the librarian as for the student that the best catalog is the books themselves. The catalog answers a different class of questions or answers the same questions in a different way. If it is well made, it comes nearer bringing everything together than the shelves can ever do; but it does not show the character of the books as well as does a glance at them or the mere sight of their outsides to one who has seen them before. The difference is like that between text-books and object teaching.

In fact to the scholar a book on the shelves is worth two in the catalog.

I must begin by saying that the close classification which I was led to make by finding on trial the insufficiency of the first Decimal System, (a judgment which was confirmed by Mr. Larned's additions to the Amherst system, and still more by Mr. Dewey's new edition) is not that absurd idea against which the Duet has directed its arguments -- a classification which should bring absolutely everything in the library on each subject into one place. This Mr. Dewey claimed as the effect of close classification; he never thought or spoke of it as its essence. The phrase is merely a comparative term, meaning minuter classification than has hitherto been customary, minuter than Mr. Smith's or Mr. Edmonds's or Mr. Schwartz's or Mr. Dewey's original scheme. We believe that for large libraries and for some subjects in smaller ones and for particular subjects in special ones, utility is served by carrying the subdivision of classes farther than has usually been done.

The Duet's criticism of Mr. Dewey under this head is rather verbal than practical. He had said -- enthusiastically and without proper limitation -- that "all the books on a given subject are found standing together, and no additions or changes can ever separate them." Messrs. Perkins and Schwartz, taking the word "all" in its strictest, most absolute sense, show that this is claiming an impossibility, (1) because of the existence of special collections which take books out of the general classification, and because the necessity of separating folios and duodecimos practically amounts to the same thing; and (2) because some books treat of several subjects, and, of course, can only be put in one place.

Every one who has bestowed any thought on classification knew this before, Mr. Dewey as well as the rest, as his very next sentence indicates—"Not only are all the books on the subject sought found together but the most nearly allied subjects precede and follow," because the chief advantage of having allied subjects near at hand is that the books on them are likely to treat in part on "the subject sought."

Possibly some novices and hasty readers have been deceived by this unlimited claim,* and have overestimated his system in consequence. He should have said, "All that it is on the whole desirable to get together."

As a criticism on Mr. Dewey's style the Duet's point may have been well taken; as a criticism of his classification it is nugatory; for it applies equally to every classification that has ever been made or ever will be made. It is a necessary drawback to any possible system. Indeed, altho the matter seems to be urged seriously, it is so evident that no man of the slightest experience in the work could have imagined it possible by any method (short of taking books to pieces) to get together *everything* in the library relating to more than one or two subjects (of course it can be done for a few that do not conflict) that one is tempted to regard the whole section as mere badinage.

All-collecting classification, "is impossible except with exceptions." But it is possible with them, and they do not seriously diminish the value of minuteness. Leaving out Juvenile Works and Special Bequests, I have all the parallel libraries that the Duet mentions, and I have the additional collection often called the "Inferno." To see *all* that we have on any one topic a man may have to consult (1) the general library, (2) the obsolete library, (3) the pamphlets, (4) the costly books, (5) the inferno. But he would have to consult them all just as much whether they were divided minutely or not, and he

can consult them much more easily because they are classified closely. And once he has learned in what section any subject occurs in one collection, he knows just where to look for it in all the others. In that respect my method is like the practice of having the same geographical divisions under every country.

If my only object were a defence of Mr. Dewey I might stop here; but I desire also to show that the arguments adduced against the use of the word "all" do not prove in any degree the inexpediency of thorough subdivision, as might appear to a hasty reader; in other words that, what is true of the mistaken close classification does not apply to the real.

First, of the difficulty arising from the difference in the sizes of books. Everyone must separate his folios from his duodecimos at any rate. The careful internal arrangement of the one and the other size does not remove them any farther from one another, and, as in the case of the parallel libraries, it does make it easier to use the two in connection. The actual linear distance from the octavos to the folios of the same class is usually no greater in close than in broad classification, that is to say, in both cases the folios are under the octavos in the same section of shelves. In close classification it sometimes (not often) happens that the folios may be in the next division or the next but one. But it is found that this works no harm. If (A) a man is getting a book for which he has the shelf-mark and therefore knows it to be a folio, he does not look at the octavos at all, but merely runs his eye along the folio series of numbers. It matters nothing to him how far off the octavos are. And if (B) he is looking for all the books on a subject the only disadvantage is that he has to step aside a yard or two, or in extreme cases three. He cannot fail to find it. The books are arranged in the two sizes in precisely the same order; the mark is the same. If he was looking at class 89 among the octavos he has only to glance among the folios beyond 87 and 88. That anyone should make much of this as a difficulty in the way of close classification must be because he has never tried the experiment.

The same considerations apply to the difficulties arising from books discussing two or more subjects, and from books on different subjects being bound together and from important treatises on one subject being part of books on other subjects. These are evils in broad as well as in close classing. They show what they

* It has been represented to me that a sentence on p. 98 of the "Decimal classification" goes even farther than this. It is: "Every subject thus being a library by itself shows at once resources and wants as no catalog can show them." (The italics are mine.) This is supposed to mean that everyone of the sections contains all the literature there is on it in the library. I think, however, that in the mind of the writer the main idea was what I have expressed above, that one gets a much better notion of what the library has on a subject from seeing the books in the alcove than one can from a list of their titles; and that the careful and thorough arrangement of the works themselves makes this notion clearer still, exactly as the arrangement of titles in the catalog enables one to apprehend them more easily.

were intended to—that the word “all” was wrongly used; but they must not be taken by the incautious reader as furnishing any objection whatever to minute classification.

3. A third reason also merely shows the impossibility of close classification in the misunderstood sense. “If we go on subdividing till we reach the lowest possible point, we must look under each of our divisions if we wish to get ‘all’ the books on one of the species. Each successive subdivision intensifies the difficulty of keeping all the books on a subject together.” Of keeping them under one mark, yes; but not of keeping them together. Grouping books does not remove the books from one another at all, that is, they are physically *no farther off* than they were before subdivision. The misapprehension on this point is so widespread that I must be allowed to take a little space to make the matter clear. Suppose there are 500 books on animals, occupying 25 shelves. You subdivide them. They still occupy the same 25 shelves. “All” the books on the dog are as much together as they were before; those of them, which treat of the dog alone are more together. To find every word that those 500 works contain on the dog, you do not have to look over more shelves, you do not have to look into more books; you simply look at the same books on the same shelves in a different order. The only difference is that, whereas before all were marked, say K, now they may be marked K, KA, KB, KC, etc., and the special dog books may be KXA.

Let me take one other example. In the explanation of Mr. Schwartz’s alphabetic-mnemonic scheme, occurs the following passage (Lib. jnl., 10:372): “An inquirer interested in the literature of chess is directed to class 982, where on one shelf he will find all there is on the related subjects, cards, checkers, and chess. His eye takes in the whole shelf at a glance, and he can more easily pick out the books on chess, than he could find them in a fine-spun system where, although the actual books were no more in number, it was thought necessary to arrange the Chess literature separately.” Mr. Schwartz’s is not at all a bad arrangement, but in the Boston Athenæum is a better. We have now * 76 works on these three subjects, arranged in groups

in the following order, 27 works on Cards, 48 on Chess, 1 on Checkers. Mr. Schwartz would have these groups mixed together in one alphabetical arrangement, first, perhaps, a book on whist, then some on chess, then one on euchre, then one on checkers, and so on, as the hazard of the alphabet required. To find the one book on checkers, a man might have to look over the whole 76 vols., and to find “all” the books on chess one must scan the whole 76. But at the Athenæum, this is no great trouble, because the works on chess have a number of their own, and a place to themselves, to which one goes directly, just as in Mr. Schwartz’s scheme, one goes to the books on Sports. Even supposing one had to look a little to find the Chess books, the instant a man has found one, he has found all, for they stand side by side. If the books were “no more in number” than in Mr. Schwartz’s library, they would also be on one shelf, but as three groups. It is not easy to see why the inquirer’s eye could not take in the whole shelf at a glance in one case as well as in the other, and why in Mr. Schwartz’s plan “he can more easily pick out the books on chess,” which are mixed up with other books, “than he could find them in a fine-spun system,” where they would be already picked out for him, and put together by the shelf arranger.

I have frequently met with this same fallacy in the advocates of broad classification. They seem to have an idea that books are physically separated by minute classification; that if you have, say, ten shelves-full of books on the history of England, and pick out one shelf-full on the Elizabethan age, and another on the Georgian era, which you put on the fifth and sixth shelves, leaving the first to the fourth for the undivided books, you have somehow made it harder for the inquirer to find books on the Four Georges or memoirs of the court of Elizabeth, as if you had carried them off to another part of the library. Whereas, in fact, you have made it easier for him, if he has any gumption, and no harder if he hasn’t. At the worst he has only the same six shelves to look over that he had before. The man who doesn’t like classification has only to disregard it; the man who knows how to use it is assisted by it. The fact is, that, there is the same reason for segregating the books on chess from the other game books that there is for segregating the game books from the other sport books, and those from the rest of the library. The reason is the same, but of course

* I say now, for, if any one thinks 76 a small number of books to divide, it must be remembered that libraries grow. In thirty years at our present rate of increase we may have 150. One must have a little foresight.

it does not apply so strongly. Whenever you have a well marked subject, put the books on it by themselves, even if there are only two, provided your notation will allow it. There are some cases where one cannot get minute classing without very long book numbers. And it may be that the inconvenience caused by a long book-number will exceed the inconvenience caused by insufficient classification.* But a whole system of notation cannot be proved to be inconvenient by quoting a few exceptional instances of long marks.

Their fourth reason is that "this process of division, if carried to its logical result, ends in a *reductio ad absurdum*. If we want to keep every distinct subject by itself, we are obliged to provide a separate place in our scheme for every variety of animal, vegetable, and mineral, for every king that ever reigned, and for every author that has written." Not exactly. There are not books on "every variety of animal," etc. Leaving out of view difficulties of notation, there is no objection to the fifty million heads the Duct calls for, when we have books treating of fifty million subjects; till then no one is bound to provide so many heads, but only the possibility of so many; and that is afforded by the decimal system. Exactly as the decimal author table now in use at the Boston Athenæum, and other libraries provides potential places for millions of authors instead of the 1000 who were provided for by the table as invented for the first time by Mr. Schwartz, so the decimal system of classification as now used by Mr. Dewey gives room for illimitable subdivision in place of the 1000 heads of his first scheme.

Moreover, every book in a library must have a number, or mark of some kind that will distinguish it from every other book. This is absolutely necessary for purposes of getting and charging the books and for other administrative processes. Do not, then, complain of the scheme that separates the books on different kings, for all must separate them either by the author notation or the class notation. Complain of that scheme which does not get together the books on the same king, and scatters them through the histories of the country.

But the *reductio ad absurdum*—which, by the

way, is a very poor argument when applied to practical matters, life being made up of compromises—does not apply here. The practice of division by distinct subjects is advocated on the ground that it is convenient, which it certainly is up to a certain point. If beyond that point it ceases to be convenient, or entails greater inconveniences, the reason for it ceases to operate, and we do not advocate it. The real question is, what is that point? We say that it differs for libraries of different size of character. Mr. Schwartz says that for all libraries it exactly corresponds with the 1000 divisions of his scheme. Here is an irreconcilable difference of opinion which cannot be settled by argument. I can only state it and let classifiers decide.

5. "Finally," we are told, "the whole idea of close classification rests on a transparent fallacy. It takes for granted that books can and must be classified on one principle only—namely, according to their subject. This is a complete mistake." It certainly is, but the mistake here is made by Duo and not by Dui. Even if "close classification" were used in the Duct's sense, it would not exclude form classes, because a very large part of imaginative literature can only by a great misuse of language be said to have any subject at all, consequently no subject class would take them in and there must be form divisions for them. But, as I have before said, this is not what anybody means by "close classification." Mr. Dewey's system, Mr. Larned's and mine all include form classes; and that very fact ought to have shown the Duct's authors that they had misunderstood the idea.

The various arguments that were urged against impossible classification having been shown to have no application to minute classification, there only remains one objection to the latter,—that it requires long marks. This is indisputable, yet even here the case is not so strong as it is represented.

In the first place, one must have distinct author and work marks for each book, and that means more characters the larger the class is and the less the smaller it is. Minute classing which requires more characters in the subject mark, enables us to get along with less in the author-mark. Indeed, in a small library where minute subdivisions have and are likely hereafter to have few books, and absolutely exact alphabetizing among half a dozen authors is of little importance, a single character is quite enough to designate each, and no work mark

* It happens that in the example selected by Mr. Schwartz, his notation for the composite class cards, checkers, and chess (982) has three characters, while the Athenæum notation has only two for Cards (sw), two for Chess (sx), and three for checkers (sxc).

need be used, unless there are two works by the same author.

In the second place by a suitable notation the length of marks can be very greatly diminished. If only the 10 Arabic figures are used and the scheme is not especially arranged with a view to economy of characters, the marks will be very long in some parts, particularly in a special library or in a specially developed part of a general library. But if the capacities of the alphabet and the numerals are both utilized the marks need not be in general long enough to cause any difficulty whatever, and in a large number of classes it will be very short. The use of the 36 base necessarily gives 36 classes with only one character, 1296 with only two (almost all of which would be used), and 46,566 with three characters, of which perhaps half would be used, the remainder coming in classes which do not need subdivision. In other classes where division needs to be pushed farther, chiefly the history and geography of the main countries, especially local history and geography, more characters are required. A count of the characters in the *class marks* of the works which I received last May gave the following results:

One character,	37
Two characters,	95
Three " "	47
Four " "	12
Five " "	7
Six " "	3

Total 329 characters in 131 cases.

Average, 2½ characters.

Average in all classes but fiction, 3 characters.

The average of characters in the author-marks in 31 cases of fiction (where the class-mark has *one*) was less than *five* or the total book-mark for fiction averaged less than *six*.

In the other classes the average author-marks had 3½, and the average total book-mark nearly 6½. Including fiction, the average total book-mark had 6½. Now we mark our books with more characters than is necessary for the present size of the library. This average may be considered to be what is appropriate to a library of half a million. It seems to me that the advantages which I find in minute classification are cheaply purchased by the addition of a third of a character to our book-mark. As for the dreadful consequences which are supposed to flow from the mixture of letters and numbers, as we have not felt them in an experience of five years, they do not frighten us.

ON A NEW LIBRARY PEST.

By Dr. H. A. HAGEN.

From the Boston Weekly Transcript.

EVERYBODY nowadays has books even if he never reads them. It has become an acknowledged fashion—the more books the larger the wisdom, the finer the culture. The climax is reached in France, where you can buy as decoration for fine rooms large libraries, where all the prominent classic authors are represented only by the handsomely lettered backs of the volumes stored in cabinets with glass doors. The keys of the cabinets are invariably mislaid; in fact, the cabinets do not open at all. But even where bookcases contain real volumes, it is interesting to observe which authors are never taken out. In German private libraries the binding of Klopstock's masterpiece, "The Messiah," is almost invariably as fresh as possible, and in England and here I have often seen "Paradise Lost" in a very fine condition. As an instance of the contrary, when I was a young man, an older prominent naturalist singled out a volume from my library in a condition best to be described by book and binding in tatters, and then exclaimed, "That is just how I like to see books!" It was on bugs, and my scientific digestive organs were at the time in excellent condition.

Later I was always interested in picking out books in similar condition in libraries, in order to have an idea of the taste and favorite studies of the patrons. I should state that the first prize could be given to a copy of Pepys's Memoirs, in the truest Billingsgate condition, greasy as candles. It was in a library intended for the culture of the young.

Let that be as it is, but certainly no owner of books likes to have his property destroyed, except by himself. I have believed until recently that the most obnoxious enemies of books were my special friends, the insects. But I see now that I was decidedly wrong. A most interesting publication, "The Enemies of Books," by William Blades, in London, which has gone through three editions during the past five years, shows conclusively that men are far greater enemies of books, at least in Old England. Mr. Blades describes everything injuring books—fire, water, gas, heat, dust, neglect and ignorance. Then come two short chapters of the bookworm, and other vermin, followed by chapters on bookbinders and collectors. The small volume contains facts which will be read with virtuous astonishment and disgust. A rich shoemaker, John Bagford, one of the founders of the Antiquarian Society, went in the beginning of the last century from library to library, tearing away title-pages from rare books of all sizes. These he sorted out according to nationalities and towns, and so formed over a hundred folio volumes, now preserved in the British Museum. Others collect initials on vellum, all rich in gold and colors, floral decorations ranging from the twelfth to the fifteenth century, all nicely mounted on stout cardboard. A Mr. Proeme collects only title-pages, to follow a senseless kind of

classification. One of his volumes contains coarse or quaint titles, showing how idiotic or conceited some authors have been. "Bowels Opened in Diverse Sermons," "Die and be Damned" and many others too coarse to be quoted. Certainly it is sure that the poor bugs cannot compete with such rivals, except some more enterprising ones—apparently bound West, and going straight through eighty folios of patriotic works, making them look like a spyglass, in a fashion never dreamed of by Chrisostomus and his partners.

Nearly six years ago I was invited to make a communication about library pests, at the meeting of the librarians in Boston. After a review of the literature then at my command, I came to the conclusion that only two insects were to be considered very dangerous and obnoxious in North America—the anobium and the white ant. The anobium is a small beetle, which is also very destructive to old furniture and old picture-frames. All who have the infirmity to indulge in the love for old furniture will have often observed with disgust small round openings in their treasures, out of which a fine mealy dust falls in little heaps on the floor. . . .

Three additions to my communication before the librarians have been published, but they contain only isolated cases; certainly nothing of general importance. Of course, the insects mentioned had injured books, and as everybody likes to have his own little pests, the new-comers were chronicled with some emphasis. Nevertheless, I have followed up the matter carefully during these six years, and would be able to give a nice list of names of more or less queer composition. Six years ago a part of the publications on book pests were not to be found here. But in the mean time I have been able to get some of them, the most important ones, through the splendid custom of the Public Library of ordering books wanted by scientists for their study. . . .

One morning Mr. R. T. Jackson, assistant in geology in the Museum, asked my advice and help against a new pest in his department. The stones and petrefacts were left untouched, but all the new labels, written during the past year, were more or less injured or nearly destroyed. Of course this is a serious danger for a collection, as the specimens lose their value if the locality or the scientific name is lost.

A new form of label had been chosen last year, printed on excellent card paper. The stones are kept in small, square, open boxes; the label is folded in the middle; upon the lower half the stone is laid, to keep the label in place; upon the upturned half the locality and the name are written in order to afford an easy view of the contents of the collection. Now since last winter this upper half has appeared to be scraped on both sides in such a manner that the writing is injured and in some cases has disappeared. The lower half of the label was similarly injured, so far as not covered by the stone; the under side of the lower half proved never to be injured, and was apparently protected by the bottom of the box, to which it was pressed by the weight

of the stone. The damage is a considerable one, as the whole collection is again to be provided with new labels. A careful research led to the discovery of an insect belonging to the genus *Lepisma*, which lived in the boxes and cabinets. The old labels of common writing paper were never attacked; therefore it was to be presumed that the finish of the new labels was the attraction to the insects. Indeed, Professor C. L. Jackson found the new labels finished on both sides with starch, and without doubt the starch-cover attracted the *lepisma*. I was rather puzzled by this fact. It has been known for more than a century that the greatest library pest, *Anobium*, does not like starch; therefore it was recommended to use in binding books only such paste as was made of pure starch, without meal, of course also with the addition of several drugs of the most vicious odor; and now a new customer proves to prefer starch to other things. It is, by the way, a queer but very common association of ideas, that substances with an unpleasant scent to men should also be unpleasant to insects. But the virtuous hater of Rockfort or Limbourg cheese would directly be disabused by discovering with a common hand lens a lively carnival of bugs in those disgusting dainties.

The *lepisma*, destructive to the labels, is a true American insect, described by Professor Packard as *L. domesticum*. It belongs to a small group of insects with the euphonic name *Thysanoura*; and there are half a dozen species known in the United States. The principal one found in Europe is the *L. saccharinum*, better known as the small blue silverfish. This little insect is found in dark places or corners near provisions, running very fast, and being so soft that it is crushed by the lightest touch. In Europe it has been always, but without proof, considered as imported from America. It has been known there for more than two hundred years, but its existence cannot be traced before the discovery of America. The whole body of the insect is covered with very fine iridescent scales, which have been used as a delicate test object for microscopes, and are the cause of its vulgar name, silverfish.

If we tabulate all the facts, we find directly that all damages, except those to paper and its combinations, have been inflicted on silver, clothing and muslin curtains which were invariably starched or finished with some stiffening size, making them more easily eaten or eroded. Second, the backs of books have been more or less seriously injured. But just here paste had been used in quantity. The gold lettering of the books is commonly done by putting the gold on paste and burning the hot brass letters into the back. I have been assured that in one case only the gold of the lettering had disappeared. There is no wonder that silken and paper tapestry has been eaten; but it is to be hoped that the industry now common of making paper-hangings solely of arsenic may induce *lepisma* to emigrate to more hospitable quarters.

That labels in collections have been destroyed, is observed here in France and in New South Wales. All those labels were starched. Prints

have been destroyed in England. Letters when lying loose or in heaps, and Government records in England, in New South Wales and in Boston. I think many gentlemen present will find the most rascally instance of destruction is in the making of erasures in account books in the safe.

After all these facts, there is no doubt that maps, engravings, collections of photographs, herbariums, even label catalogues, are in evident danger. But if we look more closely at the injuries reported, we find directly that all such papers, when pressed firmly together, were not reached by *lepisma*—and in this way a large number of accidents may be avoided. Engravings and maps, which would suffer if pressed too hard, will be perfectly safe in simple pastboard boxes, provided that they are made to close perfectly, so that it is impossible for *lepisma* to find an entrance.

Insect powder, sprinkled in the nooks and corners where *lepisma* is often observed—in Cambridge behind the kitchen stove or range—kills directly all reached by the powder, and I should recommend the same for silk dresses or the closets and drawers in which they are stored. Concerning valuable engravings, I would cover the backs of those framed with common paper, fastened on with a paste mixed with insect powder or tincture. I consider, therefore, *lepisma* as not dangerous—when proper care is taken to prevent the danger.

The most dangerous enemies to papers and books are the white ants (the *termites*), because they destroy everything and avoid the daylight, when they work. As I had before this the pleasure of delivering a communication on this subject, I will give only some additional facts which have come to my knowledge during the last years. The common white ants of the western hemisphere are to be found everywhere, from Manitoba down to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In the mountains in Colorado, Washington Territory and Nevada they ascend to five thousand and even above seven thousand feet. It is, of course, not possible to exterminate them, but they must behave if they intend to live together with men. Their depredations should not exceed certain limits allowed to them. Everybody is accustomed not to forget for one moment the precautions necessary to protect his property against destruction by fire, and if the same precautions were taken, and not for one moment forgotten, against the destruction by white ants, I think all that men are able to do would have been done. Of course, very valuable property we are accustomed to shield by fireproof buildings, and similar caution will be necessary to protect very valuable property, *i.e.*, libraries, against white ants. In stone or brick buildings all stumps or roots of trees should be taken out of the bottom of the cellars to a depth of six feet before the cellar floor is carefully cemented. Outside, the building should be surrounded by a deep open area; no flower-beds, shrubs or ivy, as the necessary manure is the greatest attraction for white ants.

Large cities are certainly in less danger, at least some parts of them. I am sure that all that is called Back Bay in Boston will be free from white ants, if they are not brought in by nice parks and similar fineries. The older parts of Boston are by no means free from the pest, but for palpable reasons the owners of infected property do not like to speak of such things. Their presence in the State House, in the so-called dungeon, was noted in the papers four years ago. As nothing has been done to prevent the pest from entering other parts of the building, it is very probable that they have spread farther. The note in the newspapers about the sudden breakdown of the wooden stand supporting the ensigns and standards looks very suspicious. Perhaps white ants may know more about it. In the dungeon only the taxation papers of the State were stored, and the white ants when I saw it, had arrived to the twentieth year of this century. According to another notice in a newspaper—I cannot say if it is true—the archives of the Board of Health have been placed in the dungeon, as the notice stated, for preservation. As the State House was built on a place formerly a beautiful garden, it is very possible that stumps not taken out may be the cause of the presence of the pest.

To find out where the white ants come into the dungeon, and to follow their gangs outside the building, would be the first and most important step to take. Indeed, two years ago a bill asking for a paltry sum for this purpose was brought before the Legislature, but laid upon the table. In a boarding-house in France infested by white ants, the floor of the dining room suddenly came down two flights, together with the table boarders. It is gratifying to learn that nobody was hurt, and, as it is stated, they lost only the appetite for one day. So we may hope that if the Legislature should come down in a similar soft manner, they may lose only the appetite for one day, and that this *argumentum a posteriori* may be followed by an enlightenment about the pest. Indeed, the State House is not the only place infested by white ants in those parts of the city. A few months ago an old bachelor, in a house very near Mt. Vernon Street, had to take out all the injured lumber supporting the walls, and to replace it by new. When told by one relation that it was rather dangerous, he answered that he felt very comfortable, as it was only every ten years he had to meet this expense. In the neighborhood of the State House, in small courts, are some sickly-looking old trees, probably dear old pets of the owners. They have decidedly the appearance of knowing something about white ants. That may be as it is; I believe that no library here is more in danger than that in the State House, and I am told that it contains very rare books, difficult or impossible to be replaced. The Athenæum, situated near the State House and on one side bordering on an old churchyard, seems at first in a rather dangerous situation. But the very substantial building, with high, and, I believe, vaulted basements, makes danger to the library appear very improbable. Nevertheless, it would

be reasonable to have always the pest in mind and to make often a revision of those parts of the library which are little or rarely used. The Public Library does not seem in danger, but I know the surroundings only imperfectly. After all those gloomy predictions, I may assert that nobody would be happier than I if they were forever unfounded, and the librarian might say—What's Hecuba to him—or he to Hecuba!

LENDING LIBRARIES.

From the London echo.

THOUGHTFUL persons of almost every shade of political opinion will agree in the desirability of furnishing good books to meet the demands of the increasing body of readers whom the modern educational advance calls into existence. Some fifty years ago it was not uncommon to find many domestic servants who were unable to read or write, and members of the laborer and artisan class, if able to spell their way through a newspaper, or a chapter in the Bible, were looked upon as highly-educated specimens of their rank.

Now all is changed, every one is able to read; but the facilities for procuring good books fall lamentably short of the demand for them. By good books we do not mean works of a distinctively religious character, but any volumes the perusal of which is likely to instruct, elevate, or improve the mind of the reader—books which, in Milton's phrase, enshrine "the life-blood of a precious spirit."

Readers of Erasmus's "Colloquies" will remember the passage in which the Carthusian monk points to the treasured volumes which furnish his solitary cell, and exclaims that he can never be lonely while he possesses "such great and goodly company" to cheer his solitude; and only realizes, too, the delight and solace to be found in the society of books. But with all the flood of publications that issue from the modern press, it is by no means easy for an impecunious reader to slake his thirst for books if his taste lies in other directions than "penny dreadfuls," or such sensational literature. In the matter of libraries available for the working-classes, London is greatly behind Birmingham and other provincial towns; in many of which clerks, artisans, and the like can, for a very small fee, or for no fee at all obtain access to great collections of books. It is difficult to overrate the influence of books; they are powerful factors for good or evil; and to allow readers to be fed entirely with trashy and vicious publications is to act toward literature as Wesley complained some people did toward music, "Allowed the devil to take all the good tunes." Why should the Socialist, and the panderer to vicious tastes, be the sole purveyor of the literature of our lower orders? A discriminating taste in reading is by no means confined to the upper classes; educated artisans will often take the keenest delight in perusing works by our great authors when they have the opportunity of coming upon them. The writer has known books of history, travel, or even graver subjects, fairly worn out in lending to working-men.

Many of the old Voluntary schools had a lending library attached to them for the benefit of the school children; but too often these libraries were of an unsatisfactory character. They frequently relied for their collections on the "voluntary contributions" of the parishioners, which usually meant that the school library became a receptacle for odd volumes, obsolete books, and the general rubbish of the drawers and bookshelves. An odd volume of "Blackstone's Commentaries" was once sent to a library designed for children under sixteen; and in another case a quantity of Italian works were given for the same object. Volumes of sermons were a very favorite donation. A library replenished after this fashion was more well-intentioned than useful. Many good people also object to admit any but the drier books to a school library, sometimes even desiring to restrict the collection to works of a purely religious tendency. Scott and Kingsley are "novel-writers," and therefore inadmissible; so the lad or the girl with a taste for fiction is forbidden to gratify it by reading works that can only refine and soften, and is thrown back upon the literary garbage which is too easily procurable. The writer once managed a school library, which was restricted to tracts and kindred literature at its commencement, but afterward enlarged to take in works of general interest. In each case the books circulated freely, the children of the school considering it a kind of right to "take out a book" every week after the permission to do so had been notified. But when magazines and books of an interesting character supplemented the sermons and the tracts the librarian found a serious addition to the "wear and tear" of the books. The sermons and bound tracts always came back so beautifully clean—the other works began soon to show symptoms of usage. On remarking this to a boy who had always taken out his weekly volume, the lad replied in an injured tone, "Well, you can't expect these to last like the other books—we all reads these!"

Evidently the other volumes had been kept as are many, "books no gentleman's library should be without"—things for show, not for perusal. Tracts, and books of the kind, are valuable in their place; but it is well to keep them apart from the ordinary library. Collections of theological and religious authors are of value; but the ordinary subscriber to a Circulating Library would be somewhat dismayed if *all* other books were eliminated from the catalogue.

"Free Libraries" are the ideal of the present day, which, like the captive in the poem, seems addicted to "dream of all things free." Some long experience of the working of Lending Libraries in both town and country induces the writer to think that it is better to exact a small subscription, especially in the case of children. The sum paid may be a merely nominal one (a penny a month is a very usual amount), but the fact of payment seems to induce the subscribers to value the books more, and consequently to treat them better. If a child has to choose between spending his money in sweets and subscribing to the Library, the books procured at

the cost of the slight sacrifice are prized. Only readers will so deprive themselves; and books fare very badly in the hands of non-readers. "Please I want a book for my baby to play with," was a request actually made to the librarian of a Free Library; and all the applicants were not equally candid, though, judging from the fragmentary condition of the volumes they returned, their idea of the proper use of a book was precisely similar. When a penny subscription was insisted upon, readers of this class disappeared from the Library. In the case of adults, it may be possible (as is done in the British Museum) to hedge about the privilege of taking out books with conditions which guarantee their falling into responsible hands; but a trifling subscription seems the easiest way of managing the matter. If a workingman is intelligent enough to care for reading he will not grudge the price of a pint of beer to enable him to gratify his literary tastes, and will probably like the independent feeling of being able to subscribe for himself, and so have a right to use the books in the Library. The pence, as they accumulate, serve to procure fresh works of interest. It is impossible to get together a suitable library for adults or children, except on the "purchase system." Voluntary contributions of books may be asked in addition, but the main of the collection must be bought. The kind of works most needed are never given away. For adults, histories, like those of Froude, Motley, Prescott, novels by our best fiction writers, modern works on geography and science, are all acceptable, but rarely come, save from the booksellers. Works by old writers, Milton, Lord Bacon, Sir Thomas Browne, sometimes find readers, though one would hardly expect them to be classed as peculiar works. For lads books of travel and adventure are invaluable, and are liberally desired. Smiles's books are always in request, and good (not *goody*) biographies. What a boon might be conferred on many a London parish if some benevolent millionaire would present to it a collection of useful books for the benefit of its poorer classes! Growing lads, who formed a taste for reading at school; artisans and mechanics sufficiently educated to care for other things than beer; poor clerks, shop-girls, and the like—what a blessing the loan of suitable books would be to all these! Thus they might be lifted for awhile out of their sordid surroundings, and introduced to a new and better world by the magic of the writer. Scott is not the only author who could say on his death-bed that he was thankful he had never written a line he *then* wished blotted; and there are scores of books from whose perusal every reader must rise benefited, mentally and morally, though their authors did not profess to write an exclusively religious or instructive work.

Books which chronicle the "golden deeds" of our own or past centuries; which enlighten us as regards the marvels of science, or the history of the creation around us; books which give innocent amusement to our leisure hours, are all valuable possessions; and it is a real and wise charity to bring such works within the reach of all classes.

LIBRARIES AND READING.

By ORLIN M. SANFORD.

From the N. Y. Observer.

LIBRARIES have grown until they have become great repositories for the accumulated wisdom of ages, through the alcoves and corridors of which you and I, and other students, may work and wander. A lover of books finds a great library, with its thousands of volumes, a fascinating place. There are times when he asks no higher pleasure than to breathe in their atmosphere, to bask in the influence of their presence, to ramble about among them as impulse directs, and, contentedly seeing simply their backs, to quietly indulge in day-dreams as to their interiors. There are times when, perhaps, we grow as the corn does in summer nights and nobody sees it.

These large libraries are sometimes mismanaged, as in the case of a certain college library containing 25,000 volumes, all arranged in the most perfect order, but with the reading-room entirely separate, and the books only seen by looking through an opening like that of a railroad ticket-office window. Or, as in the case of another college of which we read that "a student, after complaining of the great difficulty of using the library by means of a catalogue and with no access to the shelves, said that he knew it contained plenty of good books, for he got in through a window one Sunday and spent the whole day there!"

THE NEW YORK FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT.

From the Commercial Advertiser.

GOVERNOR HILL has filed the following memorandum in approving Senate bill No. 435, entitled "an act to encourage the growth of free public libraries and free circulating libraries in the cities of the State:" "This bill is opposed by the mayor and the other members of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of New York City, principally upon the ground that its provisions are believed to be mandatory. I am compelled to differ with them as to the legal effect of the bill. I regard its provisions as discretionary, and believe that they will be construed so that it is left to the sound judgment of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment as to the amount of moneys which that board may see fit to allow to the libraries in question. If I believed that its provisions were mandatory, leaving no discretion whatever in the board, I should pursue my usual course in such matters and not approve it. Notwithstanding the peculiar wording of the fifth section, I am inclined to believe that the bill, as a whole, confers an authority, but leaves its exercise wholly discretionary, and I am quite certain the courts will so construe it, if occasion shall ever arise. In other respects the bill is a very just and meritorious one, and I have concluded that it would be doing great injustice to a growing and worthy charity if I should not approve it."

MR. CARNEGIE'S LIBRARY PLANS.

A CORRESPONDENT of *The Current* writes from Pittsburgh: "You say in your issue of May 20th that Andrew Carnegie has expressed himself as willing to give a quarter of a million of dollars to the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society to establish a free library, but will not give a farthing to endow such an institution, etc. So far as we know he never offered any sum to the Historical Society. The facts are these: Some years ago he made the offer of \$250,000 to the city of Pittsburgh on condition that \$15,000 be raised yearly by taxation for its maintenance. The city could not accept the money on these conditions without additional legislation, its debt having reached the limit. Recently the secretary of the Historical Society wrote Mr. Carnegie whether he would be willing to have the contemplated library endowed, the answer to which brought out the reply to which you refer, intimating that under certain conditions he would double the amount, making the donation a half a million of dollars. At this stage of the proceeding the Councils of our sister city, Allegheny, took the matter up, and appointed a committee to ask Mr. Carnegie whether he would transfer the offer to their city. The matter rested here until a few days ago, when Mr. Carnegie addressed the following note to the committee:

PITTSBURGH, PA., May 29, 1886.

Messrs. Fleming, Park, and Kennedy, Committee from Select and Common Councils, Allegheny, Pa.

GENTLEMEN: To summarize the result of our conference this morning, I state that I would esteem it a great privilege to be permitted to erect a fire-proof Free Public Library and Music Hall in the city which was my first American home, at a cost of not less than \$250,000. I understand that you agree with me that this amount will be quite sufficient for the wants of the community. Should Councils accept this, I will appoint three citizens of Allegheny to confer with you in regard to all matters pertaining to the construction of the building; it being understood, however, that nothing should be done without your approval, so that through you, as the joint committee of the Councils of Allegheny, the city would have full control of the construction of the library until completed and handed over to it.

ANDREW CARNEGIE.

This munificent gift does not invalidate the \$500,000 offered to Pittsburgh, and we have no doubt steps will at once be taken to secure the proper legislation to enable the city to accept it."

PERIODICAL LITERATURE IN LIBRARIES.

By A. R. SPOFFORD.

From *S. N. D. North's Census Report on the Newspaper and Periodical Press of the U. S.*

WHILE no one library, however large and comprehensive, has either the space or means to accumulate a tithe of the periodicals that swarm from a productive press, there are valid reasons why more attention should be paid by librarians to the careful preservation of a wise selection from all this current literature. The modern newspaper and other periodical publications afford the truest, the fullest, and, on the whole, the most impartial image of the age we live in that can be desired from any single source. What precious memorials of the day, even the advertisements and brief paragraphs of the news-

papers of a century ago affords us! No such institution as a library can afford to neglect the collection and preservation of at least some of the more important newspapers of the day. A public library is not for one generation only, but it is for all time.

The principle of selection will, of course, vary in different libraries and localities. While the safest general rule is to secure the best and most representative of all the journals, reviews and magazines within the limits of the fund which can be devoted to that purpose, there is another principle which should largely guide the selection. In each locality it should be one leading object of the principal library to gather within its walls the fullest representation possible of the literature relating to its own State and neighborhood. Where the means are wanting to purchase these, the newspaper proprietors will frequently furnish their journals free of expense for public use; but no occasion should be lost of securing, immediately on its issue from the press every publication, large or small, which relates to the local history or interests of the place where the library is maintained. This collection should embrace not only newspapers, magazines, etc., but a complete collection of all casual pamphlets, reports of municipal governments, with their subdivisions, reports of charitable or benevolent societies, schools, etc., and even the prospectuses, bulletins, catalogs, etc., of real estate agents and tradesmen. Every library should have its scrap-books (or series of them) for preserving the political broadside and fugitive pieces of the day which in any way reflect or illustrate the spirit of the times or condition of the people. These unconsidered trifles, commonly swept out and thrown away as worthless, if carefully preserved and handed down to the future, will be found to form precious memorials of a bygone age.

Communications.

LIBRARY CHECK-LIST OF SCIENTIFIC PERIODICALS.

To the Editor of the *Library Journal*:

DEAR SIR: The library check-list which forms the appendix to Dr. H. C. Bolton's "Catalogue of scientific and technical periodicals" (1665-1882), Smithsonian Misc. Coll. 514, was designed to show in what American libraries the periodicals catalogued may be found. This being the first attempt on a national scale to gather data for such a check-list, the undertaking was beset by difficulties, and, notwithstanding the efforts of the Smithsonian Institution to obtain full returns, the check-list is unfortunately far from complete and is not free from clerical inaccuracies.

The Smithsonian Institution contemplates the revision of this library check list, and has recently sent circulars to many librarians asking if they will coöperate. The circular includes a "memorandum" giving directions for the performance of the work, and a form to be signed by each librarian, in which he names the date of probable completion of his work.

Librarians receiving the circular and desirous of having their libraries fully represented in the new check-list will see the importance of giving the matter personal attention and of acting promptly. Those who may not receive circulars but wish to have their collections included in the check-list are requested to indicate their desires in a letter addressed to the Smithsonian Institution.

H. C. B.

Library Economy and History.

CHAMBERLAIN, Mellen. Address at the dedication of Wilson Hall. (Dartmouth College Library, June 24, 1885.) *n. p., n. d.* 26 p. O.

"The fitting of the library, between the 14th and 17th days of June, inclusive, from the old quarters to the new, was accomplished by an act of filial piety which deserves commendation. I learn the facts from an estimable lady who witnessed it, and her account in substance is as follows: It was deemed eminently important that the Library should be transferred to Wilson Hall before Commencement. But unavoidable delays had prevented the book-shelves from being in readiness till, by reason of the Annual Examinations, there were practically but four days left in which to make the transfer. The President accordingly announced to the assembled students the difficulty, expressed the belief that it could be overcome by a united effort, and called for volunteers. In response to the call the whole body of students rose to their feet. A day was then announced for each class; the monitors were requested to divide them into squads of twelve, assigning two hours of continuous work to each band, and reporting to the individuals and to the Librarian. The College carpenter was directed to prepare a number of hand-barrows, holding as many volumes as two men could conveniently carry. The Librarian distributed his assistants at each end of the route to direct the removal and the reception of the books. The volumes were rapidly dusted as they were taken from the shelves, placed in the hand-barrows or trays, and for four days these trays were playing between the buildings like shuttles, six at a time, from morning till night. A plentiful supply of lemonade in both buildings relieved the thirst of hot June days; the work was carried on with abundant singing and merriment, and at the end of the four days about sixty thousand of the sixty-five thousand volumes which compose the library had been transferred."

DEWEY, Melvil. Librarianship as a profession for college-bred women; an address before the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, March 13. Boston, Library Bureau, 1886. 24 p. O.

First states what librarianship now is, describes the present aids to it—the A. L. A., the LIBRARY JOURNAL, and the Library Bureau—and the prospective aid—the School of Library Economy—tells what librarianship offers to women, and states, very well, why women are not paid as

much as men for apparently similar service. Concludes with a comparison of the influence of the preacher, the teacher, and the librarian.

HOLLAND, F. M. Sunday reading-rooms and museums. (In *The index*, June 24.)

KEYSSER, Ad. Die Stadtbibliothek in Köln, ihre Organisation und Verwaltung; Beiträge zu ihrer Geschichte. Köln, Du Mont Schauberg, 1886. 8+109 p.+2 Tafeln in autotyp. Druck. 8°. 4 m.

L. A. U. K. Transactions and proceedings, 6th annual meeting held at Liverpool, Sept. 1883; ed. by E. C. Thomas. London, Trübner & Co., 1886. 6+204 p. 8°. 16 sh.

RICHOU, Gabriel. Traité de l'administration des bibliothèques publiques. Paris, Paul Dupont, 1885. 8+421 p. 8° 8 fr.

ROTH, F. W. E. Geschichte und Beschreibung der K. Landesbibliothek in Wiesbaden nebst e. Geschichte der Klosterbibliotheken Nassaus. Frankf. a. M., Reitz & Köhler, 1886. 32 p. 8°. 1.20 m.

REPORTS.

Amer. Antiquarian Soc., Worcester, Mass. (For 6 months ending Apr. 15.) Added, 2492 v., 8542 pm., 211 v. of newspapers, 291 engr., etc. Particular attention has been given to the exchange of duplicates.

Birmingham Free Ls. (24th rpt.) Added, 8331; total, 135,475 (the Shakespeare library has 6949); issued, 843,791.

"The lectures on the books in the reference library have been continued during the year: 3, 'Books on legal and Constitutional history,' by Mr. Councillor G. J. Johnson. 4, 'The Shakespeare books,' by Mr. S. Timmins, F.S.A. 5, 'Books on botany,' by Prof. Hillhouse, M.A. 6, 'Some art books,' by Mr. Alderman Kenrick. 7, 'The botanical books of the 19th century,' by Prof. Hillhouse, M.A. 8, 'Books on English history,' by Mr. Osmond Airy, M.A., and the first series of seven lectures has been published, forming a hand-book or guide to the Library and its contents. The lectures have been found to fulfil another most useful purpose, namely, that the specially qualified gentlemen who undertake to deliver the lectures are able to point out any deficiencies in the particular branch of literature or science on which they propose to lecture."

Brown Univ. Lib. Added, 541; total, 63,305; issued, 10,907. The income has fallen off much in consequence of the fall in the rate of interest.

London L. Added, nearly 4000, costing £1112; issued, 110,982, an increase of 7575. Lord Tennyson has been elected President.

Mercantile L. Assoc., N. Y. (65th rpt.) Added, 7349; net increase, 2413; total, 209,536; issued, 143,105; reference use about 32,000. The President denies the report which had been

circulated that the Association were ready to hand over their property to the incorporators of the proposed free library. He says that the matter had never been considered by the board, and that no member of the board had been consulted about the bill.

Peabody Institute, Baltimore. (19th rpt. to June 1.) Added, 2766; total, 87,492, which cost \$266,506; used, 21,372, a decrease, caused by the opening of the free library founded by Mr. Pratt. 370 periodicals are taken. The 3d vol. of the catalogue (through L) will be finished this year.

Winchester (Mass.) Town L. Added, 304; total, 6345; issued, 20,460 (fiction, 13,958).

"It is a very common belief that fiction constitutes an inferior order of literature and that readers of fiction are wasting, or at least misappropriating, the whole time which they give to such reading. This belief arises from a mistaken idea as to one of the main objects of reading. Books form one of our chief sources of information. We go to them for facts concerning every department of knowledge; but we go to them also for a different purpose. Men and women need something more than facts to shape their ideas of right and wrong, to stimulate their affections for what is good and true, and to stir the hidden forces of their natures to what is highest and best within the possibilities of their lives.

"It is true that history and biography may supply the necessary stimulus, and the latter is especially helpful when it furnishes us with examples of daily living that will address themselves to our own experience; but fiction, by combining in one individual the peculiarities of mind and heart that tend to give strength and completeness to character, is able to make upon most minds a more powerful impression for good than any department of history.

"It is also true that fiction may be powerful for evil as well as for good, and it becomes our duty as guardians of the public welfare to shut out from the shelves of the library such works of fiction as are evil in their tendencies."

Worcester (Mass.) Free P. L. Added, 3170; total, 63,941; issued, 147,486; reference use, 58,036; periodicals taken, 266; Sunday visits, 12,958; volumes consulted on Sunday, 2076.

NOTES.

Burlington, Vt.—Over 3500 books were loaned at the Fletcher Free library, for home use in May, being about 1100 more than for the corresponding month last year. The proportion of works of a serious cast to works of fiction remains about as it has for a number of years past, 69 per cent.

Chicago P. L.—"The task of removing the 120,000 volumes of the public library from an insecure building on Dearborn Street to the top story of the new City Hall has been accomplished. The new quarters are supposed to be fire-proof, and are certainly, when once reached, a great improvement over those formerly occupied, but situated as they are in the fifth story

of a public building, are not in an ideal location. The library officials have for years been seeking to obtain the use of Dearborn Park from the Government, which still holds the title to it. The passage of a bill by the Senate this week, giving the ground to the city for the use of the library, and also for the joint use of war veterans and an art institute, is apparently not appreciated or understood here. There has been no public request for such a joint occupancy, and it is regarded as practically defeating what the public library patrons have been laboring for years to accomplish." — *Tribune*.

Dom Ferdinand of Portugal, who lately died, has left a curious library, composed exclusively of 6000 books and pamphlets seized by the authorities in the various states of Europe during the last quarter of a century. — *Polybiblion*.

PERSONAL NOTES.

SAUNDERS. A sketch of the literary career of F. Saunders, of the Astor Library, is extracted by the *Publishers' weekly*, June 26, p. 804, from Talks about authors and books, by W. Andrews, in the *Wakefield [Eng.] Free Press*.

PRACTICAL NOTES.

BOOKWORMS.—Someone writes from Lima, in Peru: "Having just overhauled a bookcase of some 250 volumes, which had remained shut up for nearly two years, I found some of the books had been attacked by bookworms. On examining the books attentively I found that almost invariably the worm commenced its attack on the inside of the cover and close to the binding. I also noticed that the worm had a decided preference for dark-colored paper, so that books with dark paper inside the boards were more likely to be found worm-eaten than those with light papers. Of the dark papers, the unglazed seemed more susceptible to attack than the glazed. Light yellow highly-glazed paper has almost without exception escaped."

An English journal gives this recipe: "Bookworms are exterminated rapidly and effectually by mixing equal parts of powdered camphor and snuff, and then sprinkling the shelves with the mixture every six or eight months."

EXTEMPORE SHADE FOR READING LAMP.—The common white porcelain shade lets through too much light for delicate eyes, and one often wishes to read when nothing better is available. An added shade can be made in a moment, as follows: Take a half sheet of letter paper, or any similar piece of stiffish paper; turn down about 3cm. of one side, and emphasize the turn by a scrape with thumb-nail or paper-cutter. Then open the turned strip part way and set the strip under the front edge of the shade of the lamp, between the shade and the frame on which it rests. The rest of the sheet stands up in front of the shade. The hold of the bent paper will keep the sheet against the glass shade, and the paper agreeably modifies the effect of the light on the eyes, without keeping any of it from the table.

Gifts and Bequests.

HARWICH, Mass. Col. H. C. Brooks has bequeathed \$2000 to the town for a free library in a building now in process of construction.

REDWOOD LIBRARY, Newport, R. I. In the will of the late Judge Emott, of Poughkeepsie, was a tender of the library to the city of Poughkeepsie, under certain conditions, and that municipality failing to comply with them, the books, between two and three thousand in number, were to be given to Redwood Library, in this city, Newport being the birthplace of Judge Emott's mother, who was Miss Hester W. Cray. The directors of Redwood Library appointed two of their number, Hon. H. H. Fay, of Newport, and Mr. Hamilton Tompkins, of New York, a committee to receive the gift. The books were carefully packed at Poughkeepsie, and have arrived here in good order. The work of sorting them and placing them in proper condition will be begun at once. The library is said to be exceptionally well selected and valuable. The books include the works of the best poets, classical writers, historians, essayists, and critics.

Catalogs and Classification.

BIBLIOTECA NAT. VIT.-EMANUELE DI ROMA.

Bolletino delle opere moderne straniere acquistate dalle biblioteche pubbliche governative del regno d'Italia. Anno I, no. I (gen.-feb.) Roma, 1886. 8°. 3 p.+56 col. 8°.

BLAU, Dr. A. Verzeichniss der Handschriftenkataloge der deutschen Bibliotheken. (In *Centralblatt f. Bib.*, Jan., Feb., 3: 1-35, 49-108.)

LEDIEU, A. Catalogue analytique des mss. de la Bibliothèque d'Abbeville, préc. d'une notice historique. Paris, Picard, 1886. 8°. 5 fr. The notice is also printed separately.

PLATNER, F. von. Katalog der Bibliotheca Platneriana enth. Municipalstatuten und Städtegeschichten Italiens, dem K. Deutschen Archaeol. Institut geschenkt. Rom, Loescher & Co., 1886. 490 p. 8°. 10 m.

Catalogue de la Bibliothèque eucharistique de SAINT-OMER. Saint-Omer, d'Homont. 6+85 p. 8°.

NOTES.

PROF. DZIATZKO'S "Instruction für die Ordnung der Titel" is reviewed in the *Centralblatt f. B.* for June by Dr. Mecklenburg, who holds very different views. The editor, Dr. Hartwig, adds views of his own on four points, as follows: 1. He agrees with Dziatzko against his reviewer in discarding entry under the chief subject word; he prefers first word entry. Nor would he put learned societies under the name of their city, but under the first word. 2. But he agrees with Dr. M. that a separation of the

alphabetical catalog into two parts, one for personal names, the other for names of things, is inexpedient. 3. He approves of the method of transcription of the German Oriental Society, which is most accepted in learned circles and is daily gaining ground abroad. He would have the titles under any one head follow in their sub-arrangement the principal divisions of the subject catalog.

MR. FORTESCUE, the superintendent of the reading rooms at the British Museum, has just completed a subject catalogue of the new books which have been received at the Museum during the last five years. The contents of this work, which will shortly be published by order of the trustees, are classified under subject headings, which are arranged in alphabetical order. One result of this arrangement is to bring to light some hitherto unexpected curiosities of literature, which are both interesting and important. *Nature* (May 6, p. 15) says, "To take Chemistry, under the sub-head General we find, first, all important text-books, then elementary works, both grouped under the different languages; then follow Agricultural, Analytical, Arithmetical, Bibliography, Examination - Papers, Inorganic, Medical (with cross-references to *Materia Medica* and Pharmacy), and, finally, Organic, with 400 entries in all. This, of course, does not exhaust the subject, for under such heads as Acids, Alkalies, Alkaloids, and so on, throughout the book, we have also the titles of chemical publications. The subject Electricity is a remarkable one for the number of entries under it. They fill ten pages in double columns, and about half refer to the electric light. It is curious to notice, too, that fifty telegraph codes were published in the five years included in the Catalogue; these do not, of course, include the innumerable private and cypher codes.

MR. BULLEN, of the British Museum, asks us to state, with reference to the "Catalogue of books placed in the galleries of the Reading Room," that not only was the Catalogue compiled by Mr. Porter, but the selection of books placed in the galleries was also made by him, in accordance with the object agreed upon between him and Mr. Bullen. This object, which, in Mr. Bullen's opinion, has been well carried out, is mentioned in the preface to the work as being simply this: "The present collection is not to be regarded as a library of reference. The chief object in forming it has been to bring together in a convenient position the books in general demand, and thus to save time in supplying the books to the readers. Many books, therefore, which would not otherwise have found a place in it, have been included because they were found to be often asked for, and others because they form parts of collections, desirable as a whole, from which it was impossible to separate them." But surely the Reading Room is not the place for people who want primers and "Keys to the classics," and such productions should not be put "in a convenient position."—*Athenæum*.

"THE 'Catalogue of the Hebrew mss. in Oxford (the Bodleian and the College Libraries),'

by Dr. A. Neubauer, containing the description of more than 2600 codices, with an atlas of 40 fac-similes, illustrating the various characters of rabbinical writing, it is hoped, will see the light in the course of the next month. The fac-similes are nearly all accompanied by transcriptions, so as to enable students to make themselves acquainted with rabbinical mss. written in various countries. In order to render this costly book more accessible, the delegates have allowed the sale of the catalogue and the atlas separately."—*Ath.*, May 29.

INDEXES.

TABLEAU général méthodique et alphabétique des matières contenues dans les publications de l'ACADÉMIE IMPÉRIALE DES SCIENCES DE ST. PÉTERSBOURG. Suppl. 2. St. Pet., 1886. 8°. 50 m.

QUERY AND ANSWER.

WHAT should I do with such a pamphlet as this, "Discourse delivered before the R. I. Hist. Soc. on treaties, and especially the treaty of 1813 between Great Britain and the U. S."? Shall it go in Orations, or with R. I. Hist. Soc., or with treaties in Sociology, or with U. S. Hist., War 1812?

If the oration in your supposititious case had been with others, American oratory would be the place; but single (or for that matter collected) orations on a subject are to be treated like anything else on that subject. I never put an oration delivered before a society where the collected works of the society would go unless it is about the society or treats of the subject which the society is instituted to investigate, e.g. here, Rhode Island history. Now this oration has two subjects or perhaps three: 1. Treaties in general, which belong in international law. 2. The treaty of 1813 (a) considered as a treaty, and belonging to International law; (b) considered with regard to the policy of the U. S., whence it belongs in Politics, U. S., 1813. Probably 1. is merely introductory and to be neglected. I should no doubt treat this as 2 (a.)

C.

Bibliography.

BOLOGNA, P.: Edizioni del secolo 15. (Biblioteca Bologna in Firenze, 2.) Fir., tip. coop., 1886. 51 p. 8°.

212 editions arranged alphabetically with a chronological index and an index of cities and printers.

CATALOG der Kochbücher-Sammlung von Theodor DREXEL. Als Ms. gedruckt. Frankfurt, a. M., 1885. 54 p.

Records 258 works, the oldest dated 1531. Carefully made and indexed and handsomely printed, says *Centralblatt*.

DORER, Edm. Die Loipe der Vegaliteratur in Deutschland; bibliog. Uebersicht. Fortg. bis 1885. Dresden, Von Zahn & Jaensch, 1886. 24 p. 8°.

GATFIELD, G: A guide to printed books and manuscripts relating to English and foreign heraldry and genealogy; a classified catalogue. London, Alfred Russell Smith, 1886. 600 p. 8°. 42 s. About 12,000 titles.

MOLLAT, G. Systemat. Verzeichniss der rechts wissenschaftl. Literatur im Jahre 1885. Lpz., 1886. 20 p. f. 1.20 m.

MÜHLBRECHT, O. Wegweiser durch die neuere Literatur der Staats- und Rechtswissenschaften. (Abgeschlossen am 1. Juli 1885.) Berlin, 1886. Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht, 1886. 16+429 p. 8°. 15 m.

OESTERLEY, Hermann. Wegweiser durch die Literatur der Urkundensammlungen von Berlin, 1885-86. 8+574; 8+423 p. 1886. 2v. 8°. 21 m.

SCHULTZ, Albert. Bibliographie de la guerre franco-allemande (1870-71) et de la Commune de 1871; catal. de tous les ouvrages pub. en langues française et allemande. 1871-85 incl., suivi d'une table systématique. Paris, H. Le Soudier, 1886. 128 p. 8°. 3 fr.

SOUHART, R. Bibliographie générale des ouvrages sur la chasse, la vénerie, et la fauconnerie, pub. ou composés depuis le 15^e siècle. Avec des notes critiques et l'indication de leur prix et de leur valeur dans les différentes ventes. Paris, Rouquette, 1886. p. 8°. 25 fr.

In the *Centralbl. f. Bib.* for May, in connection with an article on the "Corvinische Handschriften von Attavantes," is a fac-simile of the illuminated 2d title-page of a ms. of St. Augustine.

Anonyms and Pseudonyms.

THE "Annuaire de la presse française," for 1885, contains a list of about 400 pseudonyms, with real names, of writers for the Parisian press. — *E. H. Woodruff*.

Edna Lyall, the author of "Donovan," it is said, is not in reality Miss "Lyall," but Miss Bailey. — *Publ. weekly*.

High-lights is by Mrs. Caroline Leslie (Whitney) Field (not Fields, as given in Lib. jnl., p. 94). — *K. E. S.*

Marie Sincère, ps. of Auguste Romieu (d. 1885), in "Des préjugés, 1854," 8°. "La femme au 19^e siècle, 1858," 8°. "Des paysans et de l'agriculture en France au 19^e siècle, intérêts, mœurs, institutions, 1865," 8°. — *Polybiblion*.

Violenzia; a Tragedy, London, Parker, 1851, was by the late W. Caldwell Roscoe. — *Notes and q.*, May 29, 7th s., 1: 439.

W. Stephenson Griggs, ps. of Miss F. Mabel Robinson (author of "Mr. Butler's Ward," and "Disenchantment") in "Irish history for English readers, London, Vizetelly, 1886." — *Acad.*

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